



EXHIBIT A

Patent
Docket No. 52126.00002

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR A SOFTWARE STEERABLE WEB CAMERA

Inventor: Robert Novak

RECEIVED
JAN 24 2002
Technology Center 2600

5

Technical Field

This disclosure relates generally to digital imaging,
digital video or web cameras, and more particularly but not
exclusively, to systems and methods for capturing camera
10 images by use of software control.

Background

Conventional digital imaging, digital video or web
cameras ("webcams") can be used for teleconferencing,
15 surveillance, and other purposes. One of the problems with
conventional webcams is that they have a very restricted
field of vision. This restricted vision field is due to
the limitations in the mechanism used to control the webcam
and in the optics and other components in the webcam.

20 In order to increase the vision field of a webcam, the
user might manually control the webcam to pan and/or tilt
in various directions (e.g., side-to-side or up-and-down)
and/or to zoom in or away from an image to be captured.
However, this manual technique is inconvenient, as it
25 requires the user to stop whatever he/she is doing, to